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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 21 March 1949

SUBJECT Plan for Communist-Inspired Strikes  
and Demonstrations in Vienna

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. On 13 March 1949, all officials of the Communist Party, Section Vienna VII, were personally informed by messenger that they were to report to District Headquarters on 14 March, in order to receive important instructions.
2. When the meeting convened, the officials were addressed by District Chairman Totz who announced a plan for the immediate organization of action committees throughout Vienna in large factories and business enterprises employing a fairly large number of workers. Individual officials were assigned to the organization of these committees in specific plants. The long range goal of the action committees is the creation of a people's democracy in Austria by illegal means. It was emphasized that every effort must be made to achieve this goal before the Austrian Government has an army at its disposal. The officials were sworn to silence on the entire program.
3. The initial action in this direction will be the organization of demonstrations against the occupation tax. The public use of the term "action committee" is to be avoided at all costs, and workers are not to learn that the Communists are behind the move or are planning to gain by it. The entire movement is to have the appearance of a popular mass protest against the tax and against the Austrian Government's plan to use the money for its future army.
4. The officials were told that the Vienna police need not be feared, because the police force is too weak and in recent demonstrations (especially during the last one at the Musikverein building) has conducted itself "correctly". Workers should be told that none of the four occupation powers will interfere, because of the danger of a military crisis. At the same time, the officials were cautioned to avoid any acts of violence, especially against the Western Powers. The speaker stated emphatically that the latter must under no circumstances be provoked in any way which might lead to interference on their part.
5. The Party and Party press will carry no mention of these plans. The Party press will not report or comment until after individual strikes, demonstrations, or protest meetings have been successful. It is hoped that, in this way, the public will be persuaded that the action stems from popular opinion rather than from a Communist plan.

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